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SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF MISSOURI

ELECTIONS DIVISION  
(573) 751-2301

October 17, 2007

Dear Election Official:

As we approach the Presidential Preference Primary of 2008, I want to ensure that our men and women in uniform have every opportunity to participate in the upcoming election. I am requesting your help to provide them with the information and assistance needed to cast their ballots fairly and securely.

As I am sure you are aware, §115.291.2, RSMo, allows voters in federal service, when sent from a location determined by the Secretary of State to be inaccessible on Election Day, to return their voted ballots by fax or email.

I hereby declare that federal service voters (115.275.6, RSMo) serving in an area in which the voter is: 1) eligible to receive hostile fire or imminent danger pay as designated by the Department of Defense; or 2) is in a location designated as a combat zone by the IRS, will qualify under this section of Missouri law and may return their ballots by fax or e-mail if they so choose. **This designation is applicable for the 2008 Presidential Preference Primary on February 5, 2008.**

Enclosed please find:

1. Instructions for Election Authorities on Handling Electronically Transmitted Absentee Ballots;
2. Ballot Instructions for Federal Service Voters;
3. Electronic Transmission (Fax or E-mail) of Absentee Ballot Cover Sheet;
4. Example of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA);
5. Flyer of Important Dates to Remember, including voter registration deadlines and absentee ballot request deadlines; and
6. Tabulating form for tracking the number of absentee ballots transmitted to and received from federal service, military, or overseas voters as required by state and federal law.

Many of you are probably receiving Federal Post Card Applications (FPCAs) in your offices. These cards serve as **both** a registration card (if the person is not already registered) and as a request for an absentee ballot.

Name  
Date  
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Please note – when an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter requests an absentee ballot, that request is good through the next two regularly scheduled general elections for federal offices. Therefore, those FPCA requests and absentee requests from absent uniformed services and overseas voters that you received in advance of the 2006 elections are also to be honored as a request for an absentee ballot through the upcoming 2008 elections (§115.279.5, RSMo). Any new requests from absent uniformed services and overseas voters that you receive for this election cycle should automatically be sent absentee ballots through the 2010 elections. However, any uniformed services or overseas voter who is at home on Election Day may vote at the polls if your office has not received his or her voted absentee ballot (a cast ballot). MCVR allows you to designate absentee ballots that are SENT and absentee ballots that are RECEIVED (cast).

**You must make absentee ballots available on December 24, 2007, for the Presidential Primary on February 5, 2008.**

Lastly, it is important to remember that absentee ballots received from residents of Missouri who reside outside of the U.S. or who are on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as members of their immediate family living with them, **do not** require notarization (§115.283.6, RSMo). This is an important distinction from other domestic civilian absentee ballots.

Additional information about federal service, military and overseas voters and general absentee ballot requests may be found on my website at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/> or by contacting my office at 800-669-8683.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin Carnahan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robin" and last name "Carnahan" clearly distinguishable.

Robin Carnahan  
Secretary of State

Enclosures